

RADIO FREE EUROPE  
MUNICH GERMANY  
POLISH BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

PROGRAM TITLE : FACTS AND VIEWS No. 2243  
AIR DATE : JUNE 20, 1967  
LENGTH : 34'45"  
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ITEM BY MR. J. NOWAK AND MR. P. ZAREMBA - GOMULKA'S ANTI-SEMITISM  
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EDITOR: Gomulka chose the 6th Congress of Trade Unions in Warsaw as the first suitable opportunity to deliver a lecture on the subject of the history of the state of Israel, its relations with the Arab states and on the reasons for the servile copying of Moscow where its policy in the Middle East is concerned. According to the report of one of the Western agencies, Gomulka's speech included the following passage:

VOICE: In connection with the fact that Israel's aggression with regard to the Arab countries has met with applause on the part of the Zionist Jewish circles of Polish nationality, who even organized libations on this occasion, I want to state the following: We did not set any obstacles in the way of Polish citizens belonging to the Jewish minority to emigrate to Israel if they desired to do so. We base ourselves on the premise that every Polish citizen should have one fatherland only, namely People's Poland. However, we do not want a fifth column in our country... We cannot remain indifferent with regard to those people who in the face of the threat to world peace, and thus to Poland's security, are on the side of the aggressor, on the side of those who destroy peace. Let those who feel that these words are addressed to them draw the appropriate conclusions from them.

NARRATOR: It is significant that the words about the fifth columns and about the libations held by the Polish Jews in connection with Israel's victory were cut from the tape before the broadcast of Gomulka's speech over the Polish radio. However, it seems that from Gomulka's point of view it would have been more advisable to subject to scissors the whole passage quoted by us or not to deliver it at all. For there is no doubt that Gomulka's words will resound with a loud echo in world public opinion, and above all in left-wing circles, and also among the so-called fraternal Parties.

Gomulka was not right when he said that only the Polish Jews rejoiced at Israel's victory. In fact - as all reports and voices coming from Poland unanimously agree - the overwhelming majority of the Polish people, not excluding even men known for their anti-Semitic attitude, were on the side of Israel. The reasons for this attitude were undoubtedly of a complex nature. There are certainly not many people in Poland who would like to see yet another act of genocide perpetrated on the Jewish nation. And such intentions were openly propagated by Nasser and his allies. In addition the Polish nation, which always admires courage, especially on the part of the weaker, was certainly impressed by the lightning victory of the Israeli David over the Arab Goliath.

We should add to this that Russia got so greatly involved on the Arab side, granting Egypt not only gigantic military aid but also encouragement - that Israel's victory has turned into a serious defeat of the Soviet Union. All this has become in Poland the source of general and unconcealed satisfaction.

Gomulka - who calls himself a Marxist - is trying to counter-act these feelings, endeavoring to incite anti-Semitism.

Particularly significant in this respect are his words about the Jewish fifth column in Poland, cut from the tape broadcast over the Polish Radio. By the "fifth column" we usually mean people acting to the detriment of their own country in conspiracy with its enemies. Is Poland in a state of hot or cold war with Israel? Is there any conflict of interests between both countries at all? Can sympathy for a nation which before our eyes and on our land became the victim of the most terrible massacre from the hands of our mortal enemy: Nazism - do harm to People's Poland? In what way could Israel bring harm to the "peaceful work of the Polish nation"?

Gomulka said that - I quote after the Reuter agency: "Israel's aggression against the Arab countries has met with applause among the Zionist circles of Jews of Polish nationality, who even organized drinking parties on this occasion". End of quotation. Nothing is known about any public demonstrations in favor of Israel in Poland. Every attempt at this kind of demonstration would certainly be liquidated immediately by the Militia. And so Gomulka is speaking about feelings of sympathy expressed privately, in closed family or friendly circles. He is speaking about them probably on the basis of the reports of the Minister of Internal Affairs, called upon to pry into the private life and hidden thoughts

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of the citizens of People's Poland. It is a fact which has been known for a long time that through such reports Minister Moczar is trying to influence the First Secretary in the direction desired by him. It would appear from Gomulka's words that the citizen cannot even have his own personal likes and dislikes. His own approach is to be hostile or friendly, depending on the attitude Moscow will adopt and, following in its footsteps, the submissively-loyal Gomulka. If Moscow is on the side of the Arabs, Israel is to be considered as the aggressor even in private thoughts, even though all the known facts should contradict this in the most glaring manner.

It is clear from Gomulka's words that all the Jews and all the Poles of Jewish origin have found themselves on the list of those suspected of belonging to Israel's fifth column in Poland. Marx and Engels would be on it if they were alive. All the leaders of the Polish Communist Party during the pre-war period would automatically be on it. For it is a known fact that the vast majority of them were Jews. The list of suspects includes, for example, Eugeniusz Szyr, a member of the Political Buro, Artur Starewicz, Secretary of the Central Committee of the PZPR or Vice-Minister Naszkowski, who recently handed over to the Israeli Ambassador the note on the breaking of diplomatic relations by People's Poland.

One can easily imagine how Gomulka's words will be received among the Marxists in the West. Racism is considered by them to be an inseparable characteristic of Fascism. In those circles Gomulka's statement will undoubtedly make a staggering impression, arousing the greatest mistrust toward the present leadership of the PZPR.

It should be added that so far similar words were not used either by the Soviet leaders nor the leaders of any other Party of the Eastern Bloc.

Until now the only exception was Albania, or rather the group of Polish Stalinists headed by Majal which broadcasts from Tirana programs to Poland. In a program broadcast last Sunday, on the eve of Gomulka's speech, there was a mention of the Zionist fifth column which has its units all over the world, and thus also in Poland.

Gomulka's formulations are almost literally taken from Majal's programs and pamphlets.